

Remodeling or Building a Home? Energy Division Provides Helpful Information

By Linda Cawley, IDWR Information Specialist

The Energy Division is releasing two free products to help make your home more energy efficient.

The first product is a 33-page booklet, “Energy Savers: Tips on Saving Energy and Money at Home.” The booklet was prepared by the U.S. Department of Energy and is available in limited quantities in both English and Spanish.

The information is provided in a non-technical format with graphics, charts, and interesting tips. Subjects cover most energy-related topics in the home as well as home office home electronics, driving and car maintenance, and renewable energy.

There is a lot you can do to save energy and money at home and in your car. This booklet tells how to start making small changes as well as long-term changes that will be noticeable on your utility bills.

The key to achieving these savings in your home is a whole-house energy efficiency plan. For example, your heating system is not just a furnace. It’s a heat-delivery system that starts at the furnace and delivers heat throughout your home using a network of ducts.

Even a top-of-the-line, energy-efficient furnace will burn a lot of fuel if the ducts, walls, attic, windows, and doors are not insulated and leak. Taking a whole-house approach to saving energy ensures that dollars you invest to save energy are spent wisely.

To obtain a free copy, call the Idaho Energy Hotline, 1-800-334-SAVE, or email the hotline office at Linda.Cawley@idwr.idaho.gov.

Building a new home?

With an increasing interest in Energy Star home construction, the Energy Division and Idaho Power Company have jointly produced a 12-minute video for the public.

The video can be downloaded from either agency websites, and is also available in DVD format from the Energy Division at no charge.

The video is hosted by Melinda O’Malley and includes comments from owners of Energy Star homes as well as energy efficiency experts.

A new Energy Star qualified home performs better for the homeowner and the environment because of a variety of energy efficient features:

- Quiet and comfortable
- Lower maintenance
- Reduced utility bills
- Improved indoor air
- Tested and certified
- Environmentally friendly

“Energy Star qualified new homes achieve their energy savings through a variety of reliable and established technologies and building practices,” says Ken Eklund, principal energy specialist with the Energy Division. All Energy Star homes meet stringent quality control requirements established by the certifying agency, the Energy Division.

To access the video, log on to the Energy Division’s website at www.energy.idaho.gov and follow the links. Anyone unable to access the video can call the Idaho Energy Hotline, **1-800-334-SAVE**, to request a free DVD.